

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-13 HA-05 AID-05
/100 W

-----005702 271227Z /41

R 261751Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9565
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ML
SUBJ: SUSPENSION OF MALIAN LABOR LEADER

REF: STATE 130499

1. EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WORKERS (UNTM), DURING SPECIAL SESSION MAY 18, SUSPENDED SECRETARY GENERAL SEYDOU DIALLO UNTIL NEXT MEETING OF UNTM CENTRAL COUNCIL. SUSPENSION MOTION CITED DIALLO FOR MARKED INDISCIPLINE, DELIBERATE VIOLATION OF RULES OF DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM, DIVISIVE EFFORTS, FLAGRANT DEFIANCE AND CONTEMPT, AND LABELED SECRETARY GENERAL IRRESPONSIBLE FOR WALKING OUT OF MAY 18 DEBATE.

2. COMMENT: REASONS FOR SUSPENSION ARE NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR. FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS THAT DIALLO, WITH BENEDICTION OF RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION (CMLN), CHAMPIONED AMENDMENT TO UNTM BYLAWS WHICH WOULD HAVE FORBIDDEN REGULARLY EMPLOYED CIVIL SERVANTS FROM HOLDING EXECUTIVE POSITION WITHIN UNTM. OTHER MEMBERS OF BUREAU, MOST OF WHOM HOLD REGULAR CIVIL SERVICE JOBS, OPPOSED THIS INITIATIVE AND,
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WHEN DIALLO WALKED OUT OF DEBATE, SUSPENDED HIM.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, SUSPENSION MOTION ALSO SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO UNTM CIRCULAR SETTING UP ELECTORAL PROCESS LEADING TO JULY UNTM CONGRESS. DIALLO'S NATIONAL UNION OF ADMINISTRATIVE WORKERS (SYNTADE) HAS YET TO MEET AND RENEW DIALLO'S MANDATE AS REQUIRED BY THIS CIRCULAR. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DIALLO TRIED TO CIR-

CUMVENT UNION ELECTORAL REGULATIONS UNDER COVER OF AN INITIATIVE THAT WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED HIS OPPONENTS AND LEFT HIS AS ONLY AVAILABLE CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE OF SECRETARY GENERAL. HIS OPPONENTS, HOWEVER, TURNED TABLES ON HIM AND ENGINEERED HIS SUSPENSION.

4. FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE WAS TOLD THAT DIALLO HAD CMLN SUPPORT IN TRYING TO ELIMINATE PLURALITY OF OFFICES. CMLN AND GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, MUST AT LEAST HAVE ACQUIESCED IN BUREAU'S ACTION BECAUSE SUSPENSION MOTION WAS BROADCAST ON RADIO MALI MAY 18 AND GIVEN FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN OFFICIAL DAILY L'ESSOR MAY 22. DIALLO WAS PROTEGE OF EX-SECURITY DIRECTOR BAGAYOKO AND HIS EVENTUAL DEMISE AS UNTM SECRETARY GENERAL HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY LIKELY SINCE BAGAYOKO'S ARREST FEBRUARY 28. FURTHER, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE CMLN WOULD WANT NEW LEADERSHIP TO BUILD THE UNION AS A CORNERSTONE OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY, DEMOCRATIC UNION OF MALIAN PEOPLE. HOUSE CLEANING WHICH REPLACED EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN AT ITS NATIONAL CONGRESS LAST DECEMBER MAY WELL BE REPEATED AT JULY UNTM CONGRESS.

5. SUSPENSION IS, NONETHELESS, TEMPORARY -- UNTIL NEXT MEETING OF 113-MEMBER UNTM CENTRAL COUNCIL, PROBABLY SOMETIME IN JUNE. DIALLO HAS EXTRAORDINARY RECORD OF POLITICAL SURVIVAL. WE MUST COUNT HIM DOWN BUT NOT YET OUT. ONE MALIAN COMMENTED THAT DIALLO DID HAVE "A PARACHUTE."
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